

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for producing a recombinant protein product under the control of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, comprising: (a) introducing an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter into **[[a]] an *E. coli* bacterial host cell that is genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an *arabinose* inducer of the inducible promoter, wherein the system is encoded by an *araE* gene or *araFGH* genes**; and (b) inducing expression of the product with the inducer.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim **[[3]] 1**, wherein the host cell cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim **[[5]] 1**, wherein the host cell is deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 7 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim **[[5]] 1**, wherein the host cell is deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim **[[5]] 1**, wherein the host cell is deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of recovering the product from the induced host cells.

Claim 10 (withdrawn -- currently amended): **[[A]] An *E. coli* bacterial host cell that is deficient in one or more of the active transport systems for an arabinose inducer of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, wherein the host cell contains a recombinant expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter, wherein at least one of the systems is encoded by an *araE* gene or *araFGH* genes.**

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The host cell of claim **[[12]] 10**, wherein the host cell cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The host cell of claim **[[14]] 10**, wherein the host cell is deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 16 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The host cell of claim **[[14]] 10**, wherein the host cell is deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 17 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The host cell of claim ~~[[14]]~~ **10**, wherein the host cell is deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of producing a recombinant protein product under the control of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, and synchronously inducing expression of the product comprising: (a) culturing *E. coli* bacterial host cells that are genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an arabinose inducer of the inducible promoter into the host cells, **wherein the system is encoded by an *araE* gene or *araFGH* genes**, wherein the host cells contain an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter; and (b) inducing expression of the product with a concentration of inducer effective to synchronously induce the expression of the product by the host cells.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[20]]~~ **18**, wherein the host cells cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[22]]~~ **18**, wherein the host cells are deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 24 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[22]]~~ **18**, wherein the host cells are deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 18, wherein the host cells are deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of reducing bacterial cell growth inhibition induced by an arabinose inducer of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, comprising: (a) culturing *E. coli* bacterial host cells that are genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of the inducer into the host cells, wherein the system is encoded by an *araE* gene or *araFGH* genes, wherein the host cells contain an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter; and (b) inducing expression of the product with a concentration of inducer effective to induce the expression of the product in the host cells, but not effective to inhibit growth of the cells as compared with that in transport-proficient cells.

Claim 27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (cancelled).

Claim 29 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[28]]~~ 26, wherein the host cells cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 30 (cancelled).

Claim 31 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 26, wherein the host cells are deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 32 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 26, wherein the host cells are deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[30]]~~ 26, wherein the host cells are deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method of increasing yield of a recombinant protein product comprising: (a) culturing *E. coli* bacterial host cells that are genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an arabinose inducer of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, wherein the system is encoded by an *araE* gene or *araFGH* genes, and wherein the host cells contain an expression vector encoding the recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter; and (b) inducing expression of the product with a concentration of inducer effective to increase the yield of the host cells or the product.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 34, wherein the yield of the host cells and the product is increased.

Claim 36 (cancelled).

Claim 37 (cancelled).

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[37]]~~ 34, wherein the host cells cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 39 (cancelled).

Claim 40 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[39]]~~ 34, wherein the host cells are deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 41 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim **[[39]] 34**, wherein the host cells are deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The method of claim **[[39]] 34**, wherein the host cells are deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method for producing a recombinant protein product under the control of an inducible promoter, wherein the inducible promoter is an *araB* promoter, comprising: (a) culturing **[[a]] an *E. coli*** bacterial host cell that is genetically deficient in at least one system for active transport of an arabinose inducer of the inducible promoter into the host cell, wherein the system is encoded by an *araE* gene or *araFGH* genes, wherein the host cell contains an expression vector encoding a recombinant protein product under the control of the inducible promoter; and (b) inducing expression of the product with the inducer.

Claim 44 (cancelled).

Claim 45 (cancelled).

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of claim **[[45]] 43**, wherein the host cell cannot grow on arabinose.

Claim 47 (cancelled).

Claim 48 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim **[[47]] 43**, wherein the host cell is deficient in the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded **[[b]] by** the *araE* gene.

Claim 49 (withdrawn -- currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[47]]~~ 43, wherein the host cell is deficient in the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[47]]~~ 43, wherein the host cell is deficient in both the high affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araFGH* genes and the low affinity arabinose transport system encoded by the *araE* gene.

Claim 51 (original): The method of claim 18, 26, 34 or 43 further comprising a step of recovering the product from the induced host cells.